

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2691

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0688

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, XF

SUBJECT: YOUNG/MEGUID CONVERSATION MARCH 9

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN PERM REP MEGUID REQUESTED MEETING TO RETURN AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S CALL LAST MONTH. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON SECURITY COUNCIL AGENDA FOR MARCH -- BENIN, SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE SYG'S REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST. MEGUID CONFIRMED EGYPTIAN CONCERN OVER ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR AN SC MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MEGUID, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY PERM REP BADAWI AND COUNSELOR HAGGAG, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG ON MARCH 9. MEGUID DISCUSSED THE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT IN POSITIVE TERMS NOTING THAT EGYPT HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN CONVINCING THE OIL-PRODUCING ARAB NATIONS TO INCREASE
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THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

3. TURNING TO THE AFRICAN ITEMS ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL AGENDA, MEGUID COMMENTED THAT MOROCCO WAS UPSET OVER THE BENIN REPORT'S FINDINGS AND IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF THE OAU RATHER THAN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WERE TO PURSUE THE MATTER. YOUNG

COMMENTED THAT THE OUTCOME OF A SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WOULD BE COMPLICATED BY BENIN'S DESIRE FOR REPARATIONS. WITH REFERENCE TO THE SC DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA, YOUNG NOTED THAT TANZANIAN PERM REP SALIM AND ZAMBIAN PERM REP KAMANA CONVEYED THE SENSE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A GENERAL SC DEBATE ON APARTHEID PRODUCING A RESOLUTION WHICH COULD BE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. THIS COULD RESEMBLE THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO SETTING IN PERSPECTIVE THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID. WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA, AMBASSADOR YOUNG COMMENTED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL APPLYING PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA SINCE THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO MOUNT.

4. SHIFTING TO THE MIDDLE EAST, MEGUID SAID CONSULTATIONS ARE UNDER WAY IN CAIRO AS TO WHETHER TO REQUEST A SC MEETING ON THE SYG'S REPORT. "AT AN EARLIER POINT WE HAD THE IDEA OF A DEBATE, BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED," HE ADDED. MEGUID, BY WAY OF ELABORATING ON EGYPT'S POSITION, NOTED THAT CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE AND EVENTS WERE OCCURRING WHICH COULD BE VIEWED FAVORABLY, BUT EGYPT'S MAIN CONCERN WAS OVER ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE NEW SETTLEMENTS AND THE OIL EXPLORATION PLANS MIGHT COMPEL EGYPT TO ASK FOR A SPECIAL SC MEETING.

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5. MEGUID QUERIED WHETHER YOUNG AS SC PRESIDENT WOULD CONSIDER MEETING WITH THE PARTIES WHEN TAKING UP THE SYG'S REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST. YOUNG ANSWERED THAT HE WOULD CONFINE HIS CONSULTATIONS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SC. MEGUID SAID HE BELIEVED "THE PARTIES" MUST NOW INCLUDE THE PLO ALTHOUGH THIS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS RECOGNITION OF THE PLO. YOUNG POINTED OUT THAT HIS MEETING WITH THE PLO AT THIS TIME COULD HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS. HE ELABORATED THAT EVERY WORD AND NUANCE BECAME FRONT PAGE AT THIS STAGE WHICH ARGUED AGAINST HIS MEETING EVEN INFORMALLY WITH THE PLO.

6. MEGUID THEN REMARKED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S REFERENCE TO "DEFENSIBLE BORDERS" FOR ISRAEL CAUSED SOME CONCERN IN EGYPT. YOUNG SAID THE PRESS STATEMENTS OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT CERTAINLY CLARIFIED THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN US POLICY AND MOREOVER THE PRESS OVERPLAYED IT. CONVERSATION

CONCLUDED WITH YOUNG'S NOTING EGYPT'S CRITICAL ROLE
IN BOTH ARAB AND AFRICAN MATTERS AND MEGUID'S
EXPRESSING THE ENCOURAGEMENT HIS GOVERNMENT FELT
OVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S AND SECRETARY VANCE'S
ENGAGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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